

HAMLYN'S

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MENAGERIE

MAGAZINE.

No. 11.—Vol. 5.

MARCH, 1920.

Price One Shilling.

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JOHN D. HAMLYN,

221, St. George's Street, London Docks, E. 1.

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Arrivals of Wild Animals in Great Britain.

Commencing January, 1920.

COMPILED BY JOHN D. HAMLYN.

It is rather early to give any list of Arrivals for 1920. Particulars of interesting arrivals will be generally found in "The Trade" article, also in the Price List which accompanies this issue.

DROMEDARIES.

Representative in North Africa collecting same.

SEA LIONS.

Eight contracted for, Practically sold to arrive.

HIPPOPOTAMUS.

Twelve months old, in sound condition. On its arrival here, some time in April, it will be deposited at the Zoological Gardens, Regents Park.

CALCUTTA STOCK (end of May).

2 Adult Tigers, 100 Monkeys, 1 Snow Leopard, 1 Cassowary, 300 Parrots, with some Flying Foxes, Mongoose and Python Snakes.

AUSTRALIAN STOCK.

Rose Cockatoos, Penants, Rosellas, Kagus, Parrot Finches, Plumhead, Cherry and Double-banded Finches, great quantity of Australian Finches arriving.

PLEASE WRITE FOR ENTERTAINING PRICE LISTS.

Hamlyn's Menagerie Magazine.

EDITED BY JOHN D. HAMLYN

No. 11.—Vol. 5.

LONDON, MARCH, 1920.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

Notice.

The subscription for Vol. V., 1919—20, is 10/- post free. Yearly subscriptions only received. Specimen copies can be sent post free on receipt of twelve penny stamps. Subscribers not receiving their Magazine should communicate at once with the Editor.

All letters to be addressed in future:—

JOHN D. HAMLYN,

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London.**

Telephone, Avenue 4360.

Telegrams, Hamlyn, London Docks, London.

The Editor will be pleased to receive sports articles and reminiscences, as well as items of news and reports of sport from all parts of the world. If stamped directed envelope be enclosed, the contributions will be returned if unsuitable.

The Trade.

By JOHN D. HAMLYN.

The Easter trade was never better. For the first time for many years I was completely sold out with the exception of three animals.

Small stock was in great demand.

Snakes were in general demand, few were obtainable, it being unwise to import same during winter months.

CUBAN CONSIGNMENT

has arrived. My Collector reports a whole series of troubles, principally his own fault. The birds are turning out well, they are improving daily under the skilful treatment of my wife. I might say in passing that Mrs. Hamlyn has had the sole control of management and selling of all birds, excepting the larger ones, for many years past. I am only the buyer. I trust my readers will excuse this divergence. Although a serious

loss has been made over this importation, I am sending this Collector out this week to Brazil for Parrots, Macaws, Marmozets and Waterfowl.

DROMEDARY EXPEDITION.

The proceedings of this traveller reads more like a romance than actual business. Having received many orders for Dromedaries I asked Mr. Bell if he would proceed to North Africa for a dozen or more. I advised him to proceed first to Tangiers or Algiers to discover the cheapest port to purchase the animals.

Evidently he found them in Tangiers for, to my astonishment, I received a cable somewhat to the following effect:—

“Purchased twelve, cable money or I return home.”

I considered that rather a bumptious cable to send an employer, nevertheless the money demanded was sent forthwith.

I naturally concluded that the animals could now be firmly offered for sale, and all my troubles were over.

But there were still surprises in store for me. I was rather startled to receive a few days later:

“Exportation camels prohibited, what shall I do.”

Just fancy an intelligent man buying camels without first making himself acquainted with the laws of the country, and then adding to my trouble by asking:—

“What shall I do.”

I know what I said here at the time, but that is unprintable!

I cabled instructions to appeal to the Sultan at his Court at Rabat, for a special licence to allow the exportation of twelve, to be mares and stallions, to replenish the various Zoological Parks, Menageries and Shows of Great Britain. This, after some delay, was granted. It is the first time in the history of the Moroccan Empire that Dromedaries were allowed to be exported.

Once more I expected the animals. But yet another cable :—

No steamer for six or eight weeks. What shall I do."

Whether Bell expected me to advise him to swim home with the animals I don't know; I simply cabled :—

"Wait and see."

I then calculated I should receive the animals about the end of this month, but no, it was not to be. Another cable :—

"Father dead, coming home via Spain."

And that is all that I know at present, for although Bell returned home he has not yet advised me of his future movements. The one reason that I have gone fully into this matter is because I wish my customers to have full particulars and not blame me for the non-arrival of camels. I do not deserve such treatment; still what can I do.

AFRICAN CONSIGNMENTS

are arriving fairly regularly. The next lot is on the "Edinburgh Castle":—1 young Sable Antelope, a Rhodesian Baboon, Chacma Baboon, Porcupines, Secretary Birds, Meercats, Squirrels, with a quantity of Finches.

I am told Bronx Park have a large collection of the larger Antelopes with Giraffes ready for shipment direct.

I cannot undertake the shipment of large Antelopes here, there is no demand; besides the prices would not suit my buyers. There are still many who talk of old prices; allow me to inform them those prices are gone for ever.

ITALIAN REPTILES

are now arriving. I have had 10,000 Fish, 1,000 Cat Fish, 400 Japanese Fantail, with Crabs, Lizards, Snakes, etc. All found a ready sale for the holidays.



Annual Friendly Dinner given at the Restaurant of the Lyons Railway Station.

REPORT.

In spite of the Railway Strike which prevented a certain number of our Paris colleagues from attending, among which the absence of M. Senateur Lebrun, and of our Vice-President, Senateur Chauveau, was specially regretted, 89 persons in all sat down to table.

M. Sarraut, the Colonial Minister, presided. At dessert M. Perrier thanked the Minister for taking the chair, and assured him that he would always receive all possible assistance from the Society. M. Sarraut in an enthusiastically received improvised speech, gave an outline of his proposed programme for exploiting the resources of the Colonies, and asked for the collaboration of those present.

Time was not found to discuss the menu, and it was decided to give a full description and explanation of the various courses in the Bulletin.

We here give some details of the food partaken.

BUTTER MADE FROM GOATS' MILK.

This butter was made and presented by Mme. Lebella. It had a slight nutty taste and was exquisite. We specially thank our colleague for thus enabling us once more to prove that the various delicate products of the goat have no unpleasant taste when properly prepared. It is time to destroy the legend that the meat of adult goats, which we have eaten plainly roasted, is not edible, a fallacy which results in the sacrifice of the kids. Paris butchers who are better informed than their clients are well aware that the best "mutton cutlets" are often in reality goat's meat, but they dare not inform their prejudiced customers.

EAGLE FISH FROM MAURITANIA.

These fish, presented by the Soc. Industrielle de la Grande Pêche, were caught off Arguin and dried at St. Etienne. Prof. Gruvre, who has for many years energetically controlled the fishing off the West African Coast, and off the coast of Madagascar, explained that the fish, *Sciaena aquila*, could with advantage take the place of cod fish, firstly on account of their drying more rapidly, and secondly owing to their being cheaper.

If these fish were found to be less delicate than the superb sturgeon that followed, they nevertheless had a very agreeable taste.

MADRAS CURRY.

This dish was looked forward to with curiosity, few among us having ever tasted *Dolichotis patagonica*, and we were most grateful to Prince Louis Napoleon (who had provided us with Gnu for our lunch in 1913) for his gift of 8 Patagonian Cavies.

The dish, prepared by a native from Ceylon, was cooked with rice and chutney and was much appreciated; it was placed on the table by the cook in his native costume.

On another occasion we shall give our colleague M. Carie's recipe for an Indian Curry.

BURGUNDY PASTE

prepared by Dr. Ganduchau showed how ordinary meat when mixed with the paste could be served up in an economical and yet palatable fashion. We await the Doctor's account of the manufacture of this paste which will shortly be published in the Bulletin, with impatience.

M. Kestner, the distinguished chemist, was also anxious for us to be the first to participate of his

NEW SUGAR.

As a result of our colleague's successful researches he has been able to make a beetroot sugar containing 90 per cent. crystalline sugar, and 10 per cent. other substances. This product which contains more food stuff than other types of sugar can be economically manufactured in the smallest of factories, and should prove of great value to the country.

Whipped Cream and Coffee sweetened with this sugar was found excellent. Every lady was presented with a small box of his sugar by M. Kestner.

COFIO,

a pudding made chiefly of flour and maize from a recipe of M. de Guerne, was much appreciated.

Major A. Piedallu, an apostle of economic house management, had made for the occasion a sweet homely drink flavoured with figs.

The wines had been carefully chosen by M. Jubier, the proprietor of the restaurant, who had specially reserved for us a few bottles of Old Ribeauville to drink to the restoration of Alsace.

In short it was the opinion of all present that the annual lunch was again a complete success, and the chef, M. Lebessier, was congratulated and thanked.

It is more important at the present time than ever before to test the value of new dishes, and it is up to us to call in the help of science to discover new forms of food. We believe, in spite of the sceptics and the few who mock at us, that we are accomplishing work of interest and utility, and we shall continue our researches.

I am indebted for the above interesting report to Monsieur Pierre Armedie Pichot.

The World's Zoological Trading Company.

By JOHN D. HAMLYN.

The long expected result has happened.

This precious Company is now in Bankruptcy. The greatest swindle ever perpetrated in connection with Zoology has now come to an end. I cannot do better than quote from an account published in "The World's Work: The Trade in Wild Beasts," by Mr. Harold J. Shepstone, April number, 1919.

Before dealing with this article I am fully aware that the same writer has glorified this Zoological Bubble in the general Press, and I have wondered why and wherefore he has done so.

Without his magnificent assistance in this respect, it would have burst long ago.

Even when the one solitary consignment arrived, flaring notices appeared in the general Press. "Hordes of Animals Arriving." "Capture of the Wild Beast Trade." All senseless notices surely written by an interested party.

And now for Mr. Shepstone's article.

It is a general series of mis-statements, and I shall deal with them in order.

"Hamburg was the principal depot of the trade, and the Hagenbecks the biggest dealers."

Quite right in those days.

"The late Carl Hagenbeck's wonderful Zoo was built of the profits derived from the sale of wild animals he collected from all parts of the world."

This is entirely wrong. The profits were made by Hagenbeck's travelling shows and animal acts all the world over.

If Carl Hagenbeck had relied entirely on the animal business he would have closed down long ago. Again

"More than once the late Carl Hagenbeck boasted to me that his best hunters were Englishmen and whenever possible he employed them."

Carl Hagenbeck, or any other German dealer, never employed a so called English hunter in his life. He never employed one because there were none. I have been in this business for over forty years and during the whole time I have never known an English hunter, that is a man who captures big game for dealers.

There are, of course, plenty of shooters of game, but they capture none. Again

"When the British sportsman after many lonely months in the Bush hunting and trapping, turned up at Nairobi, Khartoum, Stanleyville . . . with his caravan of living creatures . . ."

If Mr. Shepstone can mention only one English hunter who has turned up at either of the above places with his caravan of animals, I will give £20 to any Charity he likes to name. In Nairobi

there would be only the Boer hunter, in Khar-toum the Soudanese, and in Stanleyville never one. Just fancy a caravan of wild animals in and about Stanleyville. Mr. Shepstone's ignorance is appalling. He is probably unaware that Stanleyville is over one thousand mile away from Stanley Pool, otherwise Leopoldville, from where the railway runs down to Mataddi. No collection of wild beasts ever made would pay the expenses of a caravan tour of a thousand miles.

Then we are told that

"No one has done more for the preservation of the wild fauna of the earth than the British, by the establishment of game reserves and by controlling the number of creatures that may be shot. In the British possessions of Africa alone there are now 33 game reserves, namely: British Sast Africa, 2; Uganda, 2; Somaliland, 2; Soudan, 2; Northern Nigeria, 1; Southern Nigeria, 4; Cape Colony, 2; Mashonaland, 1; Natal, 1; Zululand, 4; Nyasaland, 2; North-eastern Rhodesia, 2; North-western Rhodesia, 5; Swaziland, 2; and 1 in the Transvaal. These reservations are to all intents and purposes natural zoological gardens, affording a safe retreat and natural refuge for the wild life of the district. Some of them are of immense size, a few being larger than the Principality of Wales, while quite a number equal our largest county, Yorkshire, in area. All these reserves have been created during the last twenty years. Fifteen of them were founded in 1910.

"From whatever standpoint one views the question, it must be conceded that the catching, handling and disposing of wild animals is essentially a business that should be in British hands. It is therefore gratifying to learn that a syndicate, composed of an enthusiastic band of British sportsmen and naturalists, all of whom are great lovers of animals, has been formed, known as the World's Zoological Trading Company, Ltd., for the sole purpose of supplying to the zoological societies and animal parks healthy living specimens of the wild fauna of the earth.

"The promoter of the enterprise is Lt. John A. Jordan, a well-known African hunter and traveller, of whom a portrait is given among "Men and Women of To-day." Associated with Mr. Jordan is Mr. Robert Leadbetter, who, at Hazlemere Park, in Buckinghamshire, has earned notoriety for his successful breeding of lions, tigers, various species of deer, antelope, foreign birds and reptiles. It is here where the Company propose to house their animals on arrival, and more healthy quarters could hardly be selected. It is a commendable improvement

upon the practice hitherto of confining the creatures in yards and stables in the centre of busy cities."

Then follows the names of three well-known Peers, and also a Scottish Shipowner. However these four gentlemen were dragged into this concern, I cannot understand.

One of the first enquiries that the Official Receiver should make would be, How did these gentlemen become connected with such a concern? Who introduced them to Jordan and his associates? Are they aware that a very large number of young officers have invested their wherewithal in this Company on account of the several names attached to the prospectus? These unfortunate young men have been deluded into investing £500 or £1,000 with a view of becoming Big Game Trappers.

Even "Truth" wrote warning all and sundry against this wild cat scheme, and then in "The Times" the following week appeared advertisements asking for demobilised officers to take part in trapping expeditions when they know no more about trapping than about milking.

Great inducements were held out for every trapper applicant to invest £500 at least in the concern. Having done that he was bundled off anywhere: Timbuctoo, Stanleyville, and I even heard of two unfortunate so called trappers going to Loanda, Portuguese Angola. The majority appealed for funds to continue their so called trappery, but were ultimately left stranded.

The article then goes on to state

"It is a specialised business," said Mr. Jordan, 'and for that reason I have not only engaged several seasoned hunters who are already out in the African wilds collecting animals, but am training some young men for the work on my own grounds. In the Congo I have secured a track of wild country, 55,000 acres in extent, upon which there are many valuable beasts, including a herd of wild elephants.

"As you know, the African elephant is a much bigger, finer and rarer beast than his Indian brother. He is taller, has a fine massive head, great tusks, and ears like monster cabbage leaves. The Belgians have shown that he can be caught and tamed like the Indian elephant. I am now making preparations to build a kheddah on the ground. Into the stockade we shall drive the wild elephants and then subdue them by sending in trained ones."

How Jordan can have the audacity to state he has already engaged several seasoned hunters and training young men for the work I cannot imagine.

I have already denied that Jordan has a Congo track of wild country with herds of elephants and valuable beasts therein. Whether this is Jordan's statement or the writer's imagination I leave my readers to decide. Jordan has never possessed a live African elephant in his life, and as for a trained one he might have seen one in his various travels, not more.

This article concludes as follows:—

" 'Every zoo, both in Europe and America, is now crying out for animals. They have had no new stock for over four years, and are anxious to fill their depleted cages and paddocks. Then many big cities, both in this country and in America, have declared their intention to establish animal parks. People love wild animals and will always go and see them. I am off myself shortly to the Congo to superintend several shipments and arrange expeditions. It is a business that demands proper organisation and careful handling,' a statement with which the writer firmly agreed."

Although this was written just twelve months ago Jordan did not go to the Congo to supervise shipments, but it is very extraordinary that directly the Official Receiver is appointed he leaves the same week for Cape Town.

The Company at its inception issued a very highly coloured descriptive list.

Its first page is devoted to their so called Animal Park which, I presume, is a portion of Hazlemere Park. This, by the way, is Mrs. Leadbetter's property.

Then we have

HONORARY DIRECTORS.

I respect these two noblemen so much that I will not mention their names, but when the enquiry takes place, they should certainly mention who inveigled them into this scheme. Without their names on the prospectus many a young officer would have saved his lot.

THE ORIGINAL DIRECTORS

were J. A. Jordan, R. Leadbetter, Major J. Seafield Grant, Brig.-General R. Pigot and H. E. Osborne, and now, so far as I can find out, there are none.

GAME RESERVES

are then mentioned. They never had **ONE**.

REGISTERED OFFICES,

30/1, St. Swithin's Lane, E.C.4.

EXHIBITION DEPOT,

Hazlemere Park, Bucks.

Regarding their offices, the rent of which I am told is £1,200 yearly.

Their Exhibition Park at £1,000 yearly.

Was there ever such a disgraceful waste of money?

I am told Jordan received £1,000 yearly and the other Directors about £250 each.

Might I ask in all seriousness, Whatever for? Here is a standing expense of £4,000 yearly with no business done.

In my opinion the whole of this money should be recovered and distributed to their unfortunate dupes, in other words, their trappers.

WHAT HAS THIS COMPANY DONE?

It has brought discredit on the animal business in general, and ruined the trade for years. From Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strand the pamphlet of this Company has been distributed. Even in Liberia where animals were reasonably cheap, the inflated prices of this Company are found. They have the audacity to ask in the bush £500 for a Hippo, and £200 each for Antelopes.

It will be years before prices resume normal. Here is an item taken from the "National News," January 19th, 1919:

"The Company has £45,000 worth of rare wild animals and birds on its West African reserve alone, but so great is the demand, largely through losses owing to food difficulties during the war and no renewal of the stocks, that there are orders for £40,000 worth for American gardens alone, another £210,000 worth for the British Zoos, and a similar demand for Continental parks."

The Official Receiver should make every enquiry concerning this statement. The author should be held responsible for such a wicked series of lies. The one and only importation which was secured quite by accident was not a financial success, taking the usual expenses into account.

I am told that some stock is still at Hazlemere Park. This could have been sold last year, but is kept there eating their heads off and I presume incurring rentage. This small consignment should have been sold on arrival, thereby saving the ridiculous charge of £1,000 yearly.

The Company's original list of stock, offered for sale, include nearly every living creature on the earth.

Once more it would be interesting to know who compiled this.

It is produced in a wonderful manner. Certainly not by anyone connected with the Company. The Compiler should have known better. It must have deceived many unfortunates.

In conclusion, I trust all those who have invested a penny piece in this undertaking to

send particulars to The Official Receiver in Bankruptcy, Carey Street, Lincoln Inn Fields, or, if they will, send it to me, and I will submit to him in due course.

Jordan and his associates should return their fees to the unfortunate young men, and I am out to see this done.



San Francisco Aquarium Society.

RAISING THE EGYPTIAN MOUTH BREEDER IN CAPTIVITY.

Sent by Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn.

This rather small aquarium fish was one of the most interesting that I ever had occasion to add to my large collection, and was an ever-changing source of wonder and delight at the time they were breeding.

Its scientific name, *Haplochromis strigigena*, is most presumptuous for so small a fish, about two inches long, at maturity, but said fish lives up to all the expectations its name may require of it.

They are natives of Northern Africa, carnivorous by nature, and abide in bodies of water ranging from 65 degrees to 85 degrees Fahr. Very trim to look upon, they are so gorgeous during the breeding season that words fail to describe any idea of colouring. Appearing as though set with precious gems of various hues, is as near as most aquarists come to describing them.

Very scrappy in disposition, they are inclined to fight with one another at all times, and we find it hard to get a pair that settles down to business and a mutual understanding. Even the very young babies are pugnacious and proceed about their business with a chip on their shoulders and are always ready to battle.

Among the larger specimens a deal of damage is done during fighting, and it behoves one to separate fine fish.

Haplochromis must be well fed on live food in order to get them to mate and readily breed, to say nothing of carrying the female through on a fourteen or fifteen day fast while incubating her eggs. There is a difference of opinion regarding the size of the tank necessary for breeding and some aquarists have said that the mouth breeder will not proceed with the nest building in a receptacle holding less than twenty gallons.

This claim I have set aside inasmuch as I have bred them in a small battery jar containing at the most, two quarts of water.

There had been some disagreement between the original pair, but one fine morning I saw the male fish very busy at the bottom of his tank. The female showed little interest in his operations. About noon, however, with a temperature around 80 degrees, she awakened to the fact that she had quite an ardent lover to spurn and after an hour of unnecessary delay in accepting his attentions, she became curious regarding the hole the male fish was gradually forming in the fine white gravel.

The start of this hole was caused by the male dragging his anal and tail fins in a small circle, as he pivoted continually, in an effort to display his wonderful colour and fin development to the lady of his desire. From the moment the female approached him, and picked up two or three mouthfuls of gravel (by way of investigation) his excitement was most intense.

He straightway converted himself into a miniature steam shovel, and went about digging the nest in a very business-like way. From a central point, he ran the fine gravel up over the lip of the depression distributing it very evenly. Toward the finish of the nest building he would start at the bottom of the pit and opening his mouth, would plough all that it was possible to jam into it and disgorge it over the edge. The nest when finished, was about 3 inches in diameter by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep and seemed to meet with his entire approval. At intervals the female would lend an encouraging mouth, but really did little digging.

She was finally coaxed into the nest and after much excited circling about (much as a dog prepares to lie down) she came to a tremulous stop, quivering close to the bottom of the nest, the male, at right angles, gently nosing her side. With a noticeable jerk an egg was deposited and she immediately swung round to the exact position that the male had previously occupied, while he lost no time in covering her former position and fertilizing the egg just deposited. While the male fish was in the act of fertilizing the single egg, the mouth of the female was held so close to his vent that much of the spermatozoa must have been taken into it and no doubt accounts for the fact that we see no infertile eggs in this operation.

As soon as the male had finished fertilizing the first egg, the female proceeded to take the same into her mouth. There was much excitement over the collecting of that first egg. The male danced his approval and gave her all of his moral support.

From that time on, the spawning of each egg was a repetition of the first, and the whole procedure was carried out without a hitch. By the time the female had gathered the result of the

afternoon's effort, her mouth was distended to its utmost capacity, and she looked for all the world like an English bull dog. The head and mouth of *Haplochromis* are designed much on the principle of the python that swallows a goodly sized pig and when carrying a spawning of eggs, the female drops the lower portion of the jaws and makes room, a sort of pantry or ante-chamber.

The eggs are carried during incubation in the mouth of the female, for a period lasting from fourteen to fifteen days during which time she abstains from all food. Then the young are first hatched, I observed them wriggling about in the mouth of the parent and the next morning saw the whole school (about sixty in this spawning) swimming freely about the mother.

As I approached the jar the entire brood made a dash for the mother and with much excitement she proceeded to take them into her mouth for protection. The young were fed on infusoria during the first three days and were then fed a very fine daphnia and grew marvellously on their new diet. So fast did they grow that it became necessary to remove the mother from them as it caused considerable consternation when, after a week she found she could only accommodate half of her children, while the other half were madly trying to gain entrance into her already crowded mouth. The young grew well without the parent and shifted for themselves as soon as she was removed. As soon as the pair had finished spawning, the male fish was removed to another tank as his presence only seemed to bother the female.

A little trouble, a lot of patience, and some luck, will give you a big thrill if you succeed in breeding this interesting fish.



African Monsters.

"The Observer" publishes the following interesting letter from Mr. Dennis D. Lyell:—

Sir, The article published in "The Observer" of November 23, written by Sir Harry Johnston, with reference to a strange animal, is interesting to field naturalists.

In his article, Sir Harry Johnston discusses the subject from the zoological point of view, and he seems to throw some doubt as to the existence of such an animal; but I would be inclined to view the story as bringing further evidence to prove that there still exists a few survivals of some strange prehistoric creature in the vast swamps of Central Africa.

For ten years I lived in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and while in the former territory I constantly heard rumours of the existence of a

strange animal in the swamps of Lake Bangweolo and Lake Mweru.

In 1910 a friend told me that he had a "boy" in his service who told him that he had seen such an animal which was certainly not a hippopotamus. At the time he was in a boat (probably a dugout) in Lake Bangweolo with Mr. Poulett-Weatherley, who was an experienced hunter, and an animal rose exposing a neck fully six feet in length, which was profusely covered with hair forming a mane. His master fired at the animal and missed it, and it then disappeared and was not seen again.

This native stated that before the white men came to Northern Rhodesia the natives occasionally killed a few of these beasts. The one he saw was near the village of Jeluwi, the headman of the village at the time being called Mlongwe and Boolu. This village is situated near where the Chambezi river flows into Lake Bangweolo.

The natives have two names for such an animal in different parts of the country, and this boy said that at Jeluwi the name it was known by was Kapamba. In other places I have heard it referred to as the Chimpeckwe.

My friend offered to lend me this native if I cared to take a trip to the place in quest of the animal, but at the time I was too ill with fever to start on the trip, and, moreover, I was rather sceptical as to the animal's existence, and, like Sir Harry Johnston, I thought the animal was probably a hippopotamus seen in a bad light.

After that I was told that another white man named Defries had seen the animal which was certainly not a hippo, as he was a most experienced hunter and was not likely to make such a mistake. The spor (tracks) of the animal has been described to me as resembling that of a colossal ostrich, as it showed three toes, but not having hunted in its reputed haunts, I cannot, of course, give any description of it. I have an account in the "Sunday Times" of November 16, mentioning how Mr. Lepage, was chased by the beast and what it looked like, but what puzzles me is why Lepage did not take careful and detailed sketches of its tracks as this would have confirmed his strange story. As the animal lives in swamp and mud the ground must have been highly suitable for the imprints of its feet. By omitting to do this Lepage has missed a great opportunity of confirming his story.

However, considering all the yarns I have heard of this strange creature, this latest story (if true) confirms the statements of the natives.

What a pity it is that some really sound observer cannot have such an opportunity, for when anything interesting of this kind occurs, it seems to happen to someone not capable of grasping the

chance offered him. However, it is possible that Mr. Lepage did think of this, and if the story is fact and not myth, I hope he will give further information on the subject, as it is of great interest to field naturalists and African hunters.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,

"The African World" has the following in this week's issue:—

STRANGE UGANDA MONSTER.

Hunter's Interesting Reminiscences.

The great bubble of publicity which the Bron-tosaurus story occasioned exploded when the cable describing the affair as a hoax was published. Nothing further has been heard on this side of the water of monsters, prehistoric or otherwise. With this mail comes a very interesting story told by Mr. J. R. McClang in the "Johannesburg Star." He writes:—

I was interested to read of the discovery of the strange animal encountered by an engineer while hunting in the Belgian Congo. The animal so described is similar to one I shot in one of the closed districts of Uganda, but smaller.

The following are the circumstances:—

I was travelling in the direction of the river Nile, in Uganda, in the year 1909, when I suddenly saw what I thought to be a rhino. Upon close examination I found this animal was not of the rhino species, but quite a strange animal I had never seen before. It was longer than the full-grown rhino, and about the same height, but broader. This animal had two tusks, about 3 ft. long, and a long horn between the nose and the top of the head at least 2 ft. long and very thick. I was so astonished at seeing such an animal that I stood gazing at same, within 80 yards, for at least two minutes. I then aimed for the brain and shot. He must have got my scent and swerved his head. I lowered my rifle for the heart shot, fired, and got him in the lung. This I could tell by the thick blood he let in his track. His spoor was similar to an elephant's, but broader. I followed up his tracks and found him behind some bush on the banks of the Nile. I fired my heavy .577—both barrels. Both bullets went through his spine and he rolled into the river. That's the last I saw of him.

When I was hunting in the Wamba Forest, now the Belgian Congo, I had 300 pigmy natives with me and they were very keen on taking me deeper into the forest, where they said I could get the very big elephants with three tusks, and in my dealings with the little pigmies I found them very keen.

General Notes.

THAT Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, writing from Dar-Es-Salaam, March 14th, gives an interesting account of wild life in Africa in "The Times," 16th March.

THAT Mr. A. C. Brooke has received the thanks of the trustees of the British Natural History Museum for presenting the national collection with a series of the varieties of the Decumanus rat, comprising chocolate, silver fawn, cream, spotted, and Japanese.

THAT a baby lion has just arrived for the Zoo—a gift from the 8th Battalion Hampshire Regiment.

THAT a baby crane was born in the Edinburgh Zoo, and is progressing favourably.

THAT a sensation was caused at the Paris Halles on Wednesday morning, when one of the wholesale butchers exposed for sale the carcass of a fine lioness at 5 francs a pound—that is, less than the price of beef.

The lioness came from a zoological collection, and had had to be killed as the result of an accident which occurred while her cage was being repainted.

Buyers for such unusual meat were readily found, on condition that some distinguishing part of the animal was given them with the meat, the purchasers relying on the traditional curiosity of Parisians for a ready detail sale provided they could prove the meat they were offering was really lioness.

THAT the Belfast City Council are seriously considering the establishment of a Zoo.

THAT further wonderful photographs of African big game—The Buffalo—by Captain Russell Roberts, appeared in "The Illustrated London News," April 3rd. Captain Roberts deserves every praise for his enterprise and daring.

THAT at the monthly meeting of the Zoological Society on Wednesday the Council reported that there had been 92 additions to the menagerie during February—16 presented, 19 deposited, 52 purchased, 1 received in exchange, and 4 born in the Gardens. Among these were 2 golden-crested penguins from South Georgia, new to the collection, which have been purchased; a collection of South African reptiles, including 4 white-throated monitors, and 2 Derbian Zonures, purchased; 3 beaver rats or coypus, born in the menagerie on February 6; and a spotted cavy, born in the menagerie on February 29.

During January and February the number of visitors to the Gardens was 94,357, an increase of 41,113 on the number in the same month last year.

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April 12th, 1920.

Dear Sir, or Madam,

CUBAN STOCK.

Arrived in very good condition, and up to March 10th, £350 stock sold.

There are very few Cuban Finches left.

There has been a greater demand for these than any others in the consignment.

Cuban Black Bullfinch (*Melopyrrha nigra*) each 30/6

Cuban Amazon Parrot, very handsome, each £4

Cuban Mocking Birds, very fine, each £4

First importation for years

These are the well-known American Mockers.

Cuban Finches, hens, each 20/-

Cuban Olive Finches, very fine, each 15/-

Cuban Euops Conure (*Conurus euops*) each 30/-

Cuban Lineolated Parrakeet fine each 30/-

Nonpariels, all turning into color .. 30/-

Indigoes, in color, each 30/-

Indigoes, out of color, .. 20/-

Saffron Finches, .. 10/-

Early application necessary to ensure delivery.

Blue Fronted Amazons, Macaws, Marmozets, with general South American Stocks will arrive in May. My collector John Evers having sailed on the R.M.S.S. "Andes" for Brazil this month.

I have promised my clients an importation of Amazons, which will all be sold at reasonable prices.

NOVELTY.

Cuban Giant Rat, *Capromys (Capromys pilorides)* £15

First imported for twenty years.

Large Tame Mandrill (*Cynocephalus mormon*)

Been in captivity sometime splendid animal, male, £50

On collar and chain.

SEA LIONS FROM CALIFORNIA

should arrive here on the 24th April, 6 males, 2 females.

Price £60 each.

Intending purchasers should forward money without delay, for, they then naturally make sure of delivery. Terms of Sale are

Sold in London only for Cash.

HIPPOPOTAMUS

Fifteen months old. Sound condition. Price on application.

On its arrival, it will be deposited in Zoological Gardens,

Regents Park. It is insured up to the middle of May.

SHETLAND PONIES.

2 Geldings, rising 33 inches, very fine, each £16

1 mare, piebald, £25

1 mare, black, 2 years, only £20

Shetland ponies are constantly arriving.

Imported Prize Rabbits.

1 Male 2 Female Giant Blue Beverns } £26

3 Female St. Nicolas } the lot

Sixteen months old, imported animals.

I can also offer 20 young ones 15/- each, or the 26 rabbits for £30 lot—the youngsters are well marked.

Reptiles, Fish.

1 American Alligator, 4 feet long £10

1 Japanese Salamander, £8

2 Wrinkled Terrapins, fine specimens, each £4

(*Chrysemys scripta rugosa*)

100 Italian Green Tree Frogs for £5 or 14/- dozen carriage paid

30 Italian Toads for 32/6. or 18/- dozen carriage paid.

120 Italian Wall Lizards for £6 or 14/- dozen carriage paid.

No Goldfish at present.

There will be 5,000 Catfish and 6,000 Goldfish arrive here about April, 24th not before.

Goldfish, 100 for 50/- 500 for £10. carriage paid.

Catfish, 100 for 60/- 500 for £12 carriage paid.

- 2 White throated Monitors (*Varanus albigularis*) each £4
- 3 Leopard Tortoises (*Testudo pardalis*) each £2
- 2 Texas Rattlesnakes (*Cratalus durissus*) each £4
- 2 Texas Coachwhip Snakes each £4

Large quantity American Snakes will arrive middle of May,

Ferrets.

Large quantity Ferrets, many been working during the season
only 12/- each, Bucks or Does.

Animals.

- 2 Indian Blackback Antelope each £30
- 1 African Water Mongoose £8
- 1 Spring-bok, female, (*Gazella euchores*) £25
- 4 Patagonian Hares, males £8 each
- 4 " " females £8 each
- 1 Rhodesian Baboon male, young specimen £20
(Choiropithecus rhodesianus Haagner)
- 1 Chacma Baboon (*Cynocephalus parcaruis*) very large, £20
- 3 Siamese Cats, very tame, 1 male, 2 females, adult, very fine
specimens, each £8
- 1 Bush Baby rare £5
- 3 Porcupines each £16
- 10 African Suicrates each £4
- 20 African Squirrels, very fine, long tails each £4
- 3 Males Mantchurian Crossoptilon each £8
- 2 Females Mantchurian Crossoptilon, each £10
- 9 Young Birds, about twelve months old each £6
(Crossoptilon Mantcharicum)
- 2 South African White Necked Crows (*Corvus scapularis*) each £8
- 2 South African Secretary Cranes, each £8, not perfect
- 1 Rhea, medium size, each £15
- 3 Egyptian Geese, imported birds, each 15/-
- 1 Ruddy Sheldrake for 32/6
- 1 Black Cap for 20/-
- 4 Adult Common Herons each 25/-
- 1 Goldfinch Mule 30/-
- 2 Himalayan Tree Pies each £2
- 3 Larger Hill Mynahs, very fine " £4

2 Roller Canaries, very fine songsters, each 40/-

2 Indian Pied Mynahs each £3

5 Grey winged Ousels „ £3

The Mynahs and Ousels will not be sold less now.

4 Virginian Red Cardinals, Cocks, each 32/6 plus 4/- carriage
(Many of these have a plaintive note)

7 Mexican Rose Finches, (*Spermophila lineola*) each 10/6 or 40/- lot

A few Silverbills, Weavers, and about six Mannakins,
say 50 birds for £8 lot, or 10/6 pair

2 Triangular Spotted pigeons (*Columba guinea*) each £1

1 Stanley Parrakeet, (*Platycerues icterotes*) £5

1 Hartlaubs Red-faced Finch, female, (*Pytelia nitidula*) £7

First to arrive in this Country.

4 Violet-eared Waxbills Sold.

10 Melba Finches Sold.

5 Black-cheeked Waxbills each 20/6

35 Bluebreasted Waxbills „ 15/6

9 Scaly-crowned „ 15/6

10 Goldenbreasts „ 12/6

1 Ultramarine Combassou „ 35/6

35 Namqualand Doves „ 17/6

25 Larks, two varieties „ 15/6

6 Hornbills, rare „ £10

2 Buffalo Starlings, rare „ £5

6 Yellow billed Hornbills (*Lophoceros leucomelas*) each £12

6 White browed Weaver birds (*Ploceipasser mahali*) each £3

3 Cape Canaries, very fine, each 15/-

4 Cape St. Helena Waxbills each 7/6

10 Dufresnes Waxbills (*Estrilda dufresoniv*) each 20/-

8 Rufus backed Mannakins (very rare from Durban) each 20/-

3 Red Shouldered Whydahs, each £2

2 Red Collared „ „ £2

6 Giant „ „ £3

30 South African Larks „ £1

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Specially prepared for all insectivorous birds. Large tins, 3/-, Small tins, 1/9, or 5/- lb.

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CUTTLE FISH, 3/- 2 lbs.; 50/- 50 lbs.; 112 lbs. for 110/-.

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